

# CUTTER (JOHN A.)

The thirty-third annual meeting  
of the Kentucky State Med. Soc.

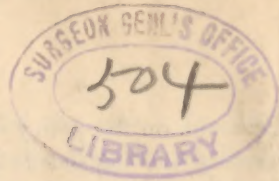
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Cutter (G. A.)



THE THIRTY-THIRD ANNUAL MEETING OF THE KENTUCKY STATE  
MEDICAL SOCIETY, HELD AT CRAB ORCHARD  
SPRINGS, JULY 11-13, 1888.

[Correspondence ALBANY MEDICAL ANNALS, August, 1888.]

The meeting was called to order Wednesday, July 11, at 2 P. M., by Edward R. Palmer, of Louisville, chairman of the committee of arrangements. The president, John G. Brooks, of Paducah, took the chair.

After the usual business, the Report on Progress in Surgery was read by W. O. Roberts, of Louisville, in which was noticed quite in full the following case:

A girl,  $5\frac{1}{2}$  years old, recovering from scarlet fever was treated by family physician for malaria and enlarged spleen. Growing worse, the surgeon was called in, and after careful study it was decided to make an abdominal incision, which was done June 20, 1888, by the reader, and an encephaloid sarcoma of the left kidney,  $6\frac{1}{2} \times 5\frac{1}{2} \times 4\frac{3}{4}$  inches, was removed, the child, at last accounts, doing well, playing and happy.

A. W. Johnstone, of Danville, spoke on the inaccuracy of diagnosis of abdominal disease; said Keith had a case of nine years' observation on which he started to do a hysterectomy before a distinguished audience, and found a cyst of the broad ligament. Tait found what was diagnosticated as fibroma of the uterus by eminent authority to be an ovarian tumor with twisted pedicle.

"What are we to do when such men make mistakes?" As to the case in question, and its class of operations, he thought that nephrotomy would be done in a majority of cases, and for stone and cysts mainly.

The Report on Progress in Ophthalmology was read by J. Morrison Ray, of Louisville. This was a fine paper covering a large amount of ground. "While there have been no great advances during the year, yet ophthalmology is getting itself thoroughly grounded," said the gentleman. Discussed by Dr. D. S. Reynolds, who, among other things, said that the length of incision had nothing to do with amount of suppuration after operation, a remark which made some discussion. He was followed by S. G. Dabney, of Louisville, Buckner, of Cincinnati, a guest, and your correspondent.

The report of the Committee on Dermatology was read by I. N. Bloom, of Louisville. The gentleman cited specially his experiments with hypodermatic injections of insoluble mercurials. He is doing careful work to determine the facts, and valuable reports may be looked for from him. Discussed by J. Clark McGuire and Dudley S. Reynolds, both of Louisville.

J. G. Carpenter, of Stanford, spoke at some length on "Dilatation of the Sphincter Ani."

In the evening the president's address was delivered. He was followed by Orrin D. Todd, of Eminence, with a humorous address on "The Successful Practitioner."

Thursday, July 12.—In the morning at business session we were richly favored with a speech by W. W. Cleaver,



of Lebanon, on the policy of the society petitioning the legislature to remove the power of appointing the officers of the insane asylums from the governor to the commissioners. Dr. Cleaver has practiced medicine forty years, and has done a good deal of stumping for his (the Democratic) party. He said: "If the inmates of Anchorage Asylum were to elect next fall a United States senator, Governor Buckner would visit the asylum every day with candies in his pockets; now he goes there hardly once a year." A committee was appointed to bring the matter before the society next year, as the legislature would not be in session again till eighteen months had elapsed.

After other business, William Cheatham, of Louisville, read the Report on Progress in Laryngology—dealing with laryngeal phthisis, extirpation of the larynx for cancer, and intubation. Stress was laid on the use of iodoform in laryngeal phthisis, and on extirpation for cancer.

Of the one thousand cases tubed, the recoveries had been about the same as in tracheotomy—26 per cent. In his first fifteen cases he had saved only one; of the succeeding nine, four; making five recoveries out of twenty-four intubations. His histories were very interesting. His courage in combatting the cases was admired by all. He attributed the tremendous mortality of his first fifteen cases to the fierceness of the diphtheria then prevailing. He had found that feeding a tubed child with liquids could be done easily by placing the patient face and head downwards.

The report was discussed by Drs. Coomes, Larrabee, Letcher and Dabney. Dr. Larrabee had had four recoveries out of eighteen cases of intubation, and Dr. Letcher one out of three.

L. S. McMurty, of Danville, read on "Recent Advances in Gynecology." He gave the histories of some of his abdominal sections, one for tuberculosis of the peritoneum, done September 27, 1887, in which there had been no return of the disease. Discussed by A. M. Cartledge, of Louisville.

Dr. Wathen, of the same city, delivered a tirade against operations upon the abdomen, saying that the surgeon ought to know what is there before opening the cavity; (although previous discussion of abdominal surgery had shown that the best men did not know at times what they were going to meet, but humanity demanded that they should cut.)

Ap Morgan Vance, of Louisville, criticised the gentleman's remarks, and said that after all abdominal surgery belonged to the general surgeon.

Edward R. Palmer, of Louisville, followed with the Report on Genito-Urinary Disease.

At the afternoon session your correspondent was very kindly introduced by David W. Yandell to open the discussion. He spoke on the association of neurasthenia with a catarrhal discharge from the prostatic and spermatic ducts; he considered the symptoms to be in a certain measure analogous to those found in women sick with uterine engorgement, displacement, etc. Both his father, Ephraim Cutter, and himself have some very interesting cases of neurasthenia associated with spermatic catarrh. He referred to the microscopical appearances of the discharge, and to his father's work on this subject, as lately published in the volume entitled "Clinical Morphologies."\*

Dr. Yandell spoke on the point that

\* See Partial Syllabic Lists of the Clinical Morphologies of the Blood, Sputum, Feces, Skin, Urine, Vomitus and Foods, p. 45, by Ephraim Cutter, M.D., New York. Published by the author, 1730 Broadway. 1888.

prostitutes whom he had treated for gonorrhœa had since borne children.

W. E. Rodman, of Hodgenville, testified as to a like experience.

A. W. Johnstone said that if the tubes were involved by gonorrhœa the woman would be sterile.

Dr. Dixon spoke further on Dr. Palmer's paper, giving a *résumé* of his paper on the "Surgical Treatment of the Bladder and Urethra."

Martin F. Coomes, of Louisville followed on "Improvements in Nasal Surgery, and J. M. Mathews, of Louisville, on "Diseases of the Rectum."

Dr. Mathews had written ten years ago upon the Irritable Rectum. He spoke of injecting a drachm of pure glycerin for constipation, the movement following in ten minutes. Dr. Mathews condemned injecting hemorrhoids with carbolic acid, claiming that much pain and some deaths had been caused by such treatment; he advocated tying.

Dr. Yandell believed that death might follow any method, and cited two cases in Louisville of death from hemorrhage after tying hemorrhoids. (Why not use the galvano-cautery?) Discussed by Drs. Carpenter, Rodman and Dixon.

Ap Morgan Vance, of Louisville, read a valuable paper on "The Exploring Needle in Bone Disease." This use of the exploring needle seems to be a Kentucky method which it would be well for others to apply. Dr. Dixon, of Hender-

son, had used it for ten years; Dr. Rodman, of Hodgenville, gave the results of his experiments with it on the dead subject. Dr. Yandell said he had explored every joint of the body with it; said at one time there was a disease called "big head" amongst the horses, and buyers would test the soundness of the bone with an awl.

S. G. Dabney, of Lowesville, followed on "Ocular Paralysis."

In the evening Dr. Yandell addressed the society on "Temperament"—a truly valuable discourse, delivered by a Nestor of surgery and a grand practitioner, rightly called by his fellows "the noblest of them all."

The society was then called to order, and while waiting for a report, J. A. Larabee, of Louisville, talked on diseases of children. He called attention to naphthalin for diarrhœa ( $\frac{1}{2}$ –1 gr. doses), and the sterilization of milk; mother's milk was, of course, the best, but next liked mixed cows' milk; had stopped using astringents for diarrhœa.

I was compelled to leave early Friday morning, but feeling that the Kentucky medical fraternity was blessed with many truly earnest workers, young and old, and that I had been highly favored by their courteous and open hearted hospitality, and well paid for my attendance.

JOHN A. CUTTER,  
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